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Assistant Director for Operations

27 August 1952

Chief, FBID

Agenda - Sixth FBIS-BBC Joint Coordinating Committee Meeting

1. The enclosed letter to Mr. Marriott outlines the subjects which FBID wants included in the agenda for the November meeting of the Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC). The six subjects are explained in brief in the succeeding paragraphs.

2. Coverage of the Baltic States - By November we should have replies to the memorandum which you addressed to various intelligence offices asking for an expression of their interest in coverage of Baltic States and other Northwestern USSR regional transmitters. With this information we will be able to gauge the strength of our demand for BBC assumption of this coverage. If Mr. Marriott insists that BBC cannot undertake the financial burden of a Stockholm station, it is believed that the extent to which we are prepared to offer assistance should be predetermined. It is suggested that this subject be discussed with the DD(I) just prior to the Committee meeting.

3. Asiatic Coverage - There is no concrete problem here but it is desired to use the JCC meeting as a sounding board for BBC views on the possibility of an FBIS Pakistan station and to suggest that the BBC inquire into the possibility of BBC exploitation of the recently announced monitoring organization of the Post and Telegraph Department of India. It is believed that this monitoring service functions largely as does the FCC in the U. S., but perhaps some coverage of certain Southeastern Asian countries is performed and would be available to the BBC as part of the British Commonwealth.

4. The Standardization Committee - This committee was established in 1949. There is a very definite need for standardization of reporting techniques on broadcast information. While it is not desired to raise any specific technique or procedure which should be standardized, it is believed that JCC discussion of the role of the Standardization Committee will encourage it to greater activity.

5. Overlapping Coverage of Cyprus and Caversham - The present principle of allocation of coverage between the two stations as expressed by previous JCC meetings is vague and does not attack the problem realistically. In brief, FBID feels that coverage should be allocated on the basis of best reception of an entire service such as Bulgarian Home Service, European Service, Press Service.

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Minor exceptions to this principle will, of course, be required on the basis of availability of languages. Since some Services such as the Yugoslav Home Service are completely audible only at Cyprus and only during the winter, the transfer of Serbo-Croat monitors from Caversham to Cyprus during good reception periods should be explored.

6. **FBIS Propaganda Analysis** - Under the former Head of the BBC Monitoring Service, Mr. Malcolm Frost, any analysis of radio broadcast propaganda other than a purely impressionistic analysis was considered dangerous and unnecessary. FBIS would like to take this opportunity to present its views on the place in the production of intelligence of propaganda analysis and to request support for these objectives by BBC.

7. **Communications** - FBIS has no fault to find with the existing communications arrangement and is prepared to review these arrangements if there is any doubt in BBC that they are receiving little for their annual expenditure of £25,000 for the Cyprus to London Cable & Wireless link. Raising this subject at the JOC meeting will allow Mr. Marriott to formally raise any deficiencies in speed which are still existent. We will welcome this criticism since it will point out specific shortcomings which are not apparent in FBIS headquarters.

8. Your approval of the enclosed letter is requested.



Enclosure

Ltr to R. D. Marriott from  Agenda for sixth
Joint Coordinating Committee meeting

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Add - Orig & 1
Admin files - 1
BBC - 1
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